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MAKE UP YOUR MIND!

You have to make up your mind as to what you want out of life. Do you want the quick, poisonous satisfaction of giving in to each feeling and emotion as they arise in your life, or have you a long-range policy? And do you have an ideal, so that when some unruly feeling gets in the way of that ideal, you lop off its head? Sometimes we find an artist, a painter, who is so desirous to put his idea onto canvas that he will ignore any desire for sleep or food. Well, that's it. Feelings and emotions may be fun, but we have to get so bent on eternal fun with God and His saints, that we are willing to slash away at any feeling or emotion that gets in our way on the road to heaven.

For a bit of practice, eat your next meal, not because you feel like it, but because God has a job for you to do on your way to heaven, and you need strength to do it. Thus you are eating because it is the will of God for you to eat. You are one jump ahead of the plain, animal feeling of being hungry. Don't take all the beauty and merit out of your life by making your work for God wait upon your feelings. Don't wait until you feel like forgiving that person, until you feel like getting up and going to holy Mass on a week-day, until you feel like denying yourself the best in food, the best in clothing, the best in entertainment. Because—you may never feel like it, any more than Mary would ever feel like standing beneath the cross that day and watching her Son be murdered. Christ could not wait until she felt like it, and Mary would not wait. And He can't wait for you. . . .

ONLY A LITTLE BIT ANIMAL

Yes, there is an animal side to our nature, and out of it arise the feelings, the hates, the fears, the blind desires, the seething emotions. Shall they render us complete animals, crowding us into dark corrals of existence without beauty, without the touch of God, without the touch of hope?

Or shall we trample on these feelings, as we unfurl the banners of truth and faith, and marshal the powers of our will behind them? After all, we are only a little bit animal. Down deep we are the image of God, made after His own likeness. Heaven, not a cattle-pen, is our home, and the home of our Father. Our destiny is eternal, and our heritage is happiness without end.

